



The magazine of TOC H

point

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FEBRUARY
2006



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Plans unveiled for community campus

Toc H has teamed up with a new partnership to submit an 'expression of interest' to the Department of Education and Skills (DfES) in setting up a Community Campus in Withins, Bolton – providing a full range of learning, training and community facilities.

Bolton Council and four local schools - Withins Secondary and Firwood Special School and Top o'th' Brow and Christ Church primary schools - are putting forward proposals to establish an all-age campus and have approached Toc H as a potential sponsor.

Vision

The vision for the campus sees it meeting the educational, health, social and leisure needs of all sections of the community, promoting social inclusion and lifelong learning.

As with the Bradford Academy which Toc H currently sponsors

(see the centre spread on Pages 6 and 7 for an update), the specialism of the proposed campus will be Enterprise and Citizenship, underpinned by principles of mutual self-respect to help raise self-esteem and improve educational performance.



Withins School, Bolton

The new-age academy will include a nursery class, a 210-place primary school, a 900-place secondary school and a 200-place sixth form. Firwood School will be on the same site. The proposal will see a major

capital investment with a newly built primary and secondary Academy alongside a state-of-the-art special school.

Councillor Barbara Ronson, Leader of Bolton Council, said: "If successful, this proposal will see a big expansion of learning opportunities for children and the community.

Opportunity

"Academies offer the chance to do things differently and we felt this was an opportunity for major capital investment which will benefit the whole community.

"Submitting the expression of interest for the Academy is only the start of the process and there will be a number of issues for the council to address if the proposal is successful."

Consultation over the proposals will now take place with staff, governing bodies and parents.

Children get a taste of the great outdoors

Riding, abseiling, caving and mountaineering are on the agenda for youngsters from all over the country as the new Toc H frontlinexperience goes national.



The new national frontlinexperience officer, Linda Hosty

Toc H has appointed Linda Hosty – who has been working as a community development officer in the North West - as

national frontlinexperience officer. She will oversee the project that aims to give children an outdoor break from their home environment.

The frontlinexperience initiative, modelled on the successful Birmingham Outward Group (BOG), continues Toc H's commitment to children, and will see a national network of volunteer-based regional groups.

A 2006 frontlinexperience programme will involve activities such as those run by the Derby Children's Camp, SCANS (South Cheshire and North Staffs Children's Holiday Committee), and BOG.

Linda, who formerly taught adults basic skills, has been helping to implement the community education agenda for the past four years and has seen its impact.

She hopes the new national initiative will be similarly effective.

She said: "We want to be able to offer young people activities like abseiling, horse-riding, and caving, combined with creative pursuits such as art, photography and music.

"Volunteers will also benefit - it will be personally rewarding, as well as good experience for those wanting a career."

We do like to be beside the seaside!

A coach trip to Lancashire's most famous seaside resort was the destination when 40-plus members of the Denny Handicapped Club and Toc H's Denny branch volunteers took their annual Christmas trip.

The Blackpool visit has been a highlight for the Scottish club for the past 10 years, with the world famous Illuminations and trips to Fleetwood and Morecambe on the itinerary.

A local coach company picked up the travellers from Denny on Friday morning reaching Blackpool later that day, where after dinner they watched a cabaret singer and played

games including cards and bingo.

The rest of a busy weekend included trips to nearby Fleetwood – to look round shops and markets, and Morecambe for ten-pin bowling and more shopping – before returning to Blackpool for the Illuminations.

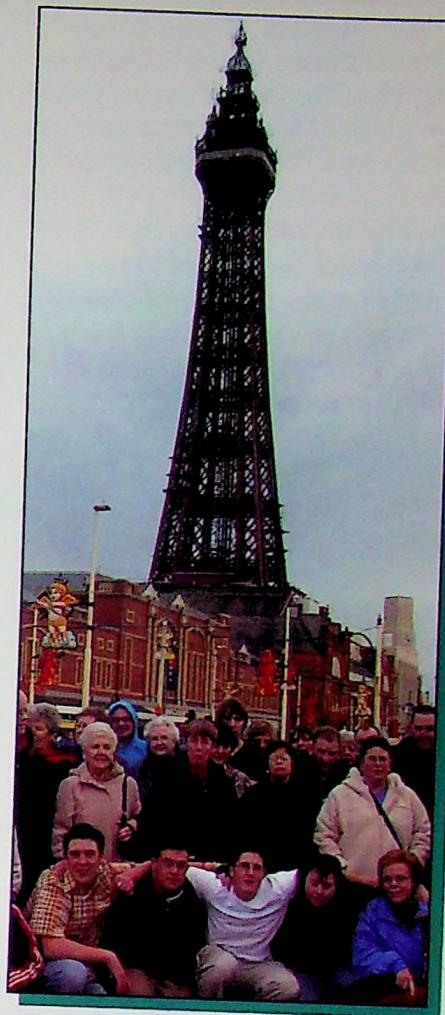
Branch secretary Agnes Peattie said: "As soon as we get on the coach to come back to Scotland everyone is asking where we're going next year.

"When we get back home the group immediately start saving up all over again for the next trip. It's such a highlight of the year for everyone involved, we enjoy being there together so much."

Our front cover shows the Toc H members who served up a nice cup of tea on Armistice Day - 1,000 times!

A nice day out

Have you been part of a trip with Toc H recently? Why not tell us about it - especially if you enjoyed it half as much as the Denny branch! Send your news to Central Services - the contact details are on the back page.



• At the famous tower...



• And enjoying a breath of sea air

Trip provides deeper understanding

Nine Toc H members and a new member of staff set sail for Poperinge last November, to visit the birthplace of the organisation and take part in a special Armistice service.

Member Chris Stoneham organises the annual trip as part of a programme of visits to Poperinge - which Chris feels gives people a special insight into the organisation.

He said: "The trip re-focuses why Toc H was formed and the spirit that has motivated the men and women to give so much over the years. Members who visit Poperinge have said how much it affected them, and it has helped them gain a deeper understanding of Toc H and the work we do."

During the three-day stay the guests visited museums and took trips to Kemmel Ridge - part of the Ypres Salient; 'Toc H Street' - named in honour of Toc H's connections with the town; and surrounding trenches,



Gaining special insight: Left to right Shirley Trimmer, John Reynolds, Kevin Ncube, Jean Stoneham, and Laurie Tuckey were some of the members who made the trip

'Trips to Poperinge enable Toc H to stay in touch with its roots'

battlefields and cemeteries.

On Armistice Day a special service was held at St. George's Chapel, with the main ceremony at 11am being held under the Menin Gate in Ypres. The monument commemorates the fallen for whom there is no known grave.

For several years Toc H has been asked to run a tea stall at this ceremony, giving away almost 1,000 cups of free tea to participants and spectators.

Chris said: "The tea bar is a valuable way of publicising the fact that Toc H is still in existence, and it is a very prestigious event to be a part of."

Kevin Ncube, Outreach worker at Leicester Refugee Day Centre, felt the group took away a deeper understanding of Toc H from the trip.

Kevin said: "It really helped my knowledge of Toc H, and put my role working with refugees into context - we too are offering help to people in need."

Chris added: "These trips to Poperinge are essential to enable Toc H to remain connected to its roots."



Picture this: Kevin Ncube meets Toc H founder Tubby Clayton

Toc H gets the credit for learning strengths

Toc H is fast becoming a sizeable informal learning provider, and exciting plans are now underway to make this learning credit-bearing, and to be able to offer it at all our Talbot Centres. Learning and training are great strengths for the organisation and are now underpinning the work we do in so many areas.

Toc H is working with the Open College Network to accredit our Community Leadership Programme, hopefully by Spring this year.

During this period all the levels of the Community Leadership Programme will have lesson plans and programme documents adjusted for local delivery. (Full details of the modules are in the booklet *Community Leadership Training with Toc H* which can be obtained from Toc H Central Services.)

Qualified

Toc H Development Officer Mark Trotter said: "We'll see a real benefit to Toc H projects through the training programme as it will ensure the people running them are qualified to sustain the development of that project.

"Achieving the qualifications also acknowledges the level of skill and competence required,

so participants will be on an even footing when speaking to, for example, funding partners or local authorities."

Currently all the credit values, and the transition from one level to another, are being reviewed so that there is a clear route for progression such as tackling more advanced work.

they run and get funding for it. For instance, if a centre was providing internet access for first-time users, the project could ensure that all the learning meets the criteria for the 'Introduction to Selecting Information Using the Internet' as defined by the National Open College Network.

This will enable the projects to link with Learning & Skills

Council funding either directly or through a local partnership arrangement. Every hour, unit and complete qualification has a real value to both the learner and Toc H.

Portfolio
Mark added:
"If your centre would like

to develop some of the Open College network programmes, review the documents available from Donna Boardman at Central Services. Compare what you already do with what is listed, and then we can begin to put a centre/learner focused portfolio together for your project."

All learners can be registered in the South West through an approved centre. Donna Boardman can supply all the student tracking documents and paperwork associated with getting these programmes up and running.



Community learning - a participant at a Toc H summer camp

We have applied for centre approval with the National Open College Network, initially through the Open College Network of the South West Region. This will enable Toc H to offer the full range of Open College Network qualifications. As the volume of training work develops at each centre, local registration may become necessary.

Access to the Open College Network Qualifications databases will enable projects to find the most appropriate qualification for the programme

Bradford Academy, a bold und

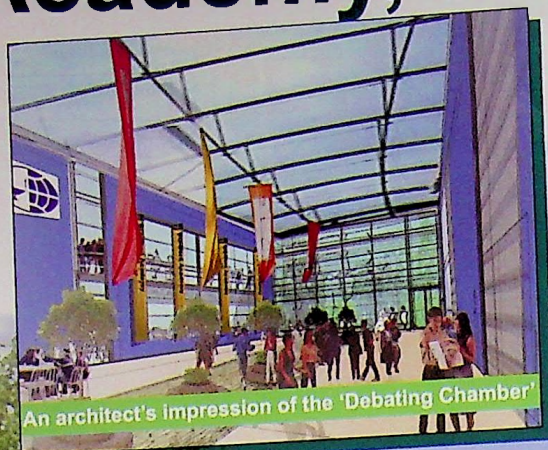
Building work is getting underway at what will become the Bradford Academy, co-sponsored by Toc H in a ground-breaking partnership with the Diocese of Bradford.

We have spent almost three years working out the concept of the Academy, and the result will be a school which children will want to be in, to learn in, to be happy in and to excel in. We have planned a school for the whole child and their families – and for the whole community.

This has come about by building on the core values of the two organisations, placing Christianity at the heart of the Academy's ethos, and underpinning it by an education in citizenship and enterprise.

The children will be taught all the core curriculum, and will reinforce their learning by the experience that Toc H and the Diocese can offer them in the ever-more important areas of citizenship and enterprise.

The striking building which will succeed Bradford Cathedral Community College can be seen in the pictures above. It has the UK's first-ever debating chamber physically and metaphorically at its heart, a 'marketplace' space that will encourage children to mix, talk endlessly about anything and everything that interests them,



Looking into the future: Clive Sedgwick, left, Geoff Smith, centre and Albert Price

and learn about each other's viewpoints and beliefs and how to respect them.

'The Academy - a new way to live and learn'

The chamber also provides zones for performances of music and drama, reading,

and for quiet times, while other learning areas radiate out from around it. It is the brainchild of Toc H, echoing much that Tubby Clayton achieved at Poperinge.

What we will achieve at the Academy is a new way to live and learn.

The curriculum takes a fresh and exciting approach to

undertaking for the whole child

their full potential to be excellent citizens in today's society.

Students will be encouraged to develop an intelligent understanding of current affairs and world events, and their effect on the community, particularly the richly varied communities of Bradford.

They will be challenged to be fair minded, to practise breaking down conflict, to serve their community, and to try to lessen prejudice. They will be encouraged to create new ways of doing things, and to handle risk and change. They will be helped to develop self-reliance, perseverance, adaptability and confidence.

While the students will all follow the broad core curriculum, they will be able to adapt their learning to their own particular interests and abilities, with mentoring by staff to help youngsters and their families see how they are progressing.

This is not an easy option – they will be expected to work hard at problem solving, decision making, critical and creative thinking, communication, organisation, management and leadership.

Albert Price, Chair of the Governors, says: "Citizenship and enterprise are the most challenging issues in society and education. Enterprise

means a 'bold undertaking' which the Academy certainly is.

"Bradford Academy wants every student to achieve their potential, to live their faith, and to develop the skills they need to serve others."

'Not just a building... it's about the whole child'

Clive Sedgwick, of Bradford Diocese our co-sponsor, says: "The new Academy is not just a building, it is a new way of learning about subjects and values, commitment and caring, citizenship and life. It is about the whole child."

Gareth Dawkins, a highly-respected head teacher, has been appointed Principal Designate of the Bradford Academy and will take up his post in April. Mr Dawkins has worked for the past 25 years in schools serving predominantly inner-city communities.

Mr Price added: "We are delighted to appoint Gareth. We look forward with great confidence to what he will be able to achieve for the students and teachers in the academy and the community around it."
(A longer article about Gareth and the school will be carried in the next issue of Point 3.)



share a vision with pupils of the Academy

education. It will offer pupils all the essential national core subjects – numeracy, literacy, science, IT and PE - reinforced by a very different, and better way of equipping themselves for their time at school and for the rest of their lives.

It will ensure that every student can do their best academically, and simultaneously can develop

Getting away from it all works



Students enjoy an away day at Toc H Lindridge

Rita Hills – former teacher and Toc H member – wrote to us about the continuing success of 'Away Days' at Toc H Lindridge. Here she tells us more about the programme, and why she believes they are so successful.

"I recently re-read an article published in Point 3 August 2002 about the Away Days programme. I soon found myself thinking: 'Yes, the Away Days are still working.'

The Away Days target specific needy groups – for example young people with profiles of truancy, disruption and falling

attendance – who might need to 'retreat' from their everyday lives. Some may face family difficulties and might be thought likely to be drawn into drug use.

Retreat

The original development of 'Away Days' at Coombeshead College in Devon, was enabled by the invaluable support of our local Toc H branch who donated £500 each year for the programme.

Toc H Lindridge is now the perfect venue for the programme - a genuine retreat. Lindridge centre manager Mike Rowlands and I lead the work, supported on some days

by professionals from health, drug education, drama, police and environmental groups. The programme looks at the lifestyle of young people, their needs and their ambitions, and presents alternatives and encourages debate. Each Away Day is unique, and we evaluate to learn something from each one.

Some students 'graduate' to become helpers for younger colleagues, which is a wonderful benefit.

Values

We are now working towards offering a sustainable programme based at Toc H Lindridge to a wider client group. At present we offer the programme to local secondary schools, but believe it would be of value to pupils in the primary sector.

Our purpose is to work with young people to enable them to overcome difficulties and to grow in confidence and respect for one another, to hopefully achieve their full potential, and to be empowered to belong freely to a wider and more loving community. All of this is held appropriately at Toc H Lindridge. We hope that Away Days will go on growing and reaching ever more young people."

David Richards
Buckley branch
Wales

Brian Stapleton
Chisleton & Wroughton
SW Region

Arthur Loosley
Kempston
East Region

Obituaries

Arthur Hoskisson
SW Region

William Bastin
Hayes
SE Region

John T Smith
Long Eaton
East Midlands Region

Rita Muter
Elmstead branch
East Region

Brenda Wallis
Weymouth
SW Region

Toc H volunteering turns lives around

With 110 years of volunteering between them, Jack and Pat Turner of Toc H's Kempston branch were worthy recipients of Year of the Volunteer 2005 Awards.

Jack, 73, and 70-year-old Pat have taken part in a whole range of volunteering activities over the years and for the past 17 have run the Toc H charity shop in Kempston.



Year of the Volunteer 2005 Award recipients Jack and Pat Turner pictured with Sir Sam Whitbread, Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire (centre)

Their awards were presented on behalf of the Queen by Sir Sam Whitbread, Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire.

Heart of England branch member, **Chris Williams**, was also a recipient of one of the coveted awards. Chris's association with Toc H began in tragic circumstances when her sister-in-law was killed in a car crash.

Chris began to look after her sister-in-law's three children along with her own three,

when a neighbour persuaded her to get out and about by accompanying her to a Toc H meeting.

Chris became founder of the Cannock Chase Project, finding volunteers, raising money and setting up working parties for the project which incorporates interlocking trails weaving in and out of woodland valleys on a five-acre site.

Chris, who was also responsible for the fund-raising, said: "We started with £39 and needed about £150,000 but we achieved it."

Liverpool project volunteer **John McGrath** was serving a sentence at Lancaster Jail which allowed him to become involved in a Toc H project in 1993.

John, 61, added: "I have been involved in a whole range of activities, including landscaping at Cannock Chase, working in a hospice in Humberside, taking special-needs children on holiday, and helping at the Jimmy Savile dancethons." Last May he cycled from Liverpool to Spain, helping to raise money for an organisation providing holidays for disadvantaged people and their carers.

Graham Stevenson has been a member of Toc H since his 16th birthday in 1940.

He has been chairman of the Leprosy Relief Association, and helped to integrate prisoners back into society. Graham also spent over 20 years helping to run two hospital libraries in Walsall.



Cannock Chase - volunteers built trails on a five acre site

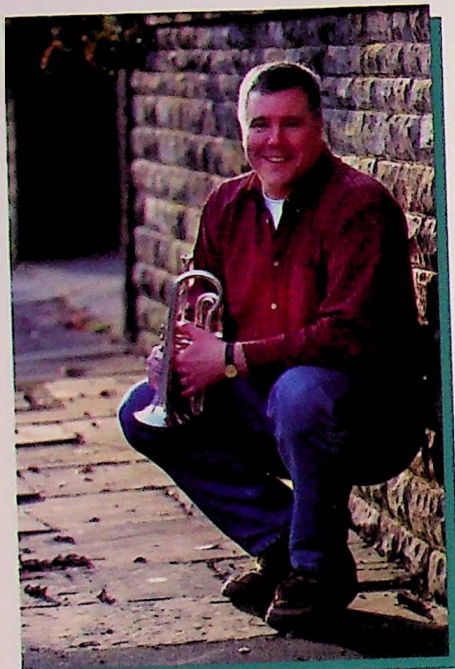
He said: "Volunteering turned my life around and gave me a sense of purpose. Whatever gratitude people give me for my volunteering work, my gratitude to Toc H and other volunteer groups is far more deserved."

Graham said of his award: "I've always felt the act of volunteering and helping others to be its own reward, but everyone likes recognition and I feel proud to be honoured in this way."

A year that promises excitement

Welcome to the first Point 3 of 2006. It is, I believe, another interesting and well-produced issue, with wonderful stories to tell and images which illustrate vividly just some of the many activities Toc H plans throughout 2006.

The year promises to be truly exciting, with major developments for the movement. Toc H has re-shaped itself considerably over the previous few years, taking sometimes difficult decisions without which it would not thrive in today's society.



Working with young people:
Gareth Dawkins

One important development is that we have appointed leading educationalist Gareth Dawkins to be Principal of Bradford Academy, of which we are co-sponsors. This means that our vision of working with young people through the principles of citizenship and enterprise begins to come to fruition. (See pages 6 and 7 for details.)

- We are also well underway

with developing a new Talbot Centre in Leicester to provide advice and friendship for asylum seekers and refugees. The centre is due to be opened on 16th February: all members in the Mid East Region are invited.

- We have won a competitive tender to run a community centre in the Easton Area of Bristol.
- We are bringing our Gibraltar Hostel back into use for young people working with international partners IBO, an Austrian volunteer organisation.

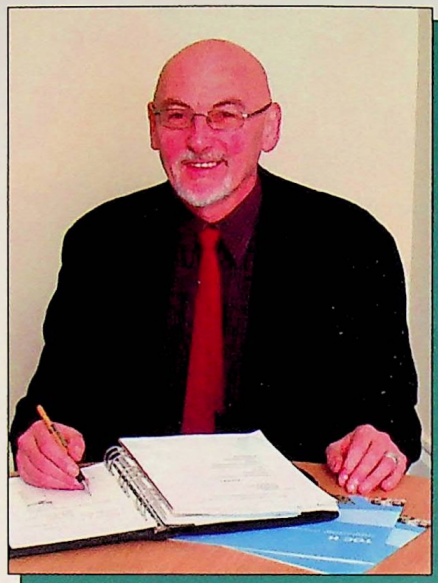
- By April our new structure will place area managers and regional development officers in each of the nine English Regions, providing greater local support to projects, centres and branches.

- On May 5th the Toc H 'Do Something for a Change Day' will challenge centres, projects and branches to undertake service to their local community. Information is available from the 'Do Something for a Change' team at Whitchurch.

One of the most important news items concerns Point 3 itself. While the next issue will still be the interesting, useful and colourful magazine members currently enjoy, it will in future be based on our website and can be read on the Internet or e-mailed directly to you. We will not be printing Point 3 after this issue, in order to make significant savings in printing, administration and postage.

We will also be able to regionalise issues so that you can receive much more detail about what is happening in your own region, and the activities you might want to support. However, we appreciate that

some members do not have access to the Internet, and Point 3 is important to keep you up to date with what is going on. So any member who does not have access to the Internet can contact Angela Gregory at Whitchurch for a printed version.



You can visit www.toch.org.uk at your local library or one of the developing Toc H regional hubs (to be featured in the next issue of Point 3), where you can see Point 3, download it and print it out if you wish.

I hope you will continue to enjoy Point 3 and to keep sending in your news and pictures. A new appointment in 2006 will be a Marketing and PR member of staff who will be based in Whitchurch.

I am confident that these moves will enable us to reflect the growth and creativity of Toc H, and spread the movement's values.

Geoffrey Smith

Camp saluted



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

Derby Toc H Children's Camp has achieved the Investors in People standard after an assessment during the organisation's annual two-week camp. Since 1924 the camp has provided a free holiday for 100 or so disadvantaged children run by 40 volunteers. Chairman of the camp David Lovell said: "Toc H recognises its real strength is in the capabilities and enthusiasm of its volunteers. They are encouraged to enhance existing skills, learn new ones and share experiences to continually improve the camp."

Leicester launched

Leicester's Refugee project was launched at its new home at St. Andrew's Vicarage on February 17th 2006. Members of the community were invited to a reception at St. Andrew's Hall. Look out for more about the launch in the next issue.

Merry Christmas for all

Toc H helped Melton's elderly have a Merry Christmas, by supporting a scheme encouraging shoppers to buy an extra grocery item to donate in a food parcel. Toc H partnered a number of the town's organisations in the scheme, including Melton Lions and the Rotary clubs of Melton and Melton Mowbray Belvoir. The scheme celebrated its silver jubilee last Christmas.

Turkey, tinsel and festive fun

Lea Valley branch's annual 'Tinsel & Turkey' party for adults with learning difficulties was one of the many Christmas celebrations held at Toc H branches throughout the country.

About 60 guests from three residential and day care centres in Hertfordshire came to dance, eat from the buffet lunch and be entertained by the branch and their volunteers.



Michael Lewson and Tara Phillips from Lintons hostel receive their gifts from Santa



Santa's little helper: volunteer Jo Dawson gets guests in a party mood



Thanks! Another happy guest gets his present from Father Christmas

The highlight of the day was a visit from Santa. Each guest received a present and whilst some couldn't wait to rip the paper off, most took it home to open on Christmas morning.

The partygoers were joined by local MP Charles Walker and Mayor of Broxbourne Councillor Moira O'Neill. Former Mayor David Hales and his wife also turned up for the party, even staying behind to help tidy up after the event.

Among the volunteers was Liverpoolian John McGrath, who regularly travels down to Hertfordshire from Merseyside to take part in Lea Valley projects. John was recently awarded a medal in the Year of the Volunteer celebrations - to read more about that see Page 9.

A column in which we ask people connected with Toc H to reflect on...

Life, Toc H, the universe and all that stuff!

Betty Cornick has been a member of Toc H for over 60 years, and has held a variety of positions with the organisation in that time. Betty comes from a Toc H family - with husband, sons and in-laws, all affiliated. Her eldest son is still very much involved as the president of the Talbot House Association. Betty spent her early working life with Lloyds Bank, and has also worked on a local prison board. She has also served 27 years as a magistrate.

How did you first become involved in Toc H and why?

Maude Cornick - who became my mother in law when I married her son Ted - first introduced me to Toc H in the 1940s. Maude's husband had been with Toc H from the very beginning, and he had actually visited Talbot House during the war. Maude invited me to join the local Toc H branch meeting to see what went on.

This all happened just after the war, at a time of my life when I was looking to put my Christian upbringing and beliefs to a practical use. Toc H became a channel for me to be able to do this.

What roles have you undertaken with Toc H?

For about 20 years I helped arrange trips to Poperinge for members to look round Talbot House and surrounding areas,



Betty Cornick with Madame Duclos, an alderman of Poperinge who showed Betty and the group around.

helping them get a better sense of the origins of Toc H.

I have been chairperson of the Weymouth branch, and later the district chairperson. In 1971 Toc H's men and women's branches merged into one, and I was elected the first chairperson of the integrated movement, a position I held for

six years.

I'm still an active member of my local branch, and we still help where we can.

What are your main interests?

I've always been a keen singer, and have sung both solo and choruses. In the past I was invited to sing in several recitals for BBC radio - which was a wonderful experience. Although I no longer sing solo, I still take part in a choir at Christmas and Easter. I'm also an avid reader of both fact and fiction - especially biographies.

In what ways can Toc H encourage new membership?

The changes we've gone through haven't always been easy, but I think adjustments have been necessary if we are to grow. We're starting to get known in all sorts of circles again and that can only be a positive thing.

It's essential that Toc H keep communicating between branches and people at the centre of the organisation - we have to keep everyone informed so we're all pulling in the same direction.

New members



Revd Bertrand Olivier is the new Vicar of All Hallows by the Tower - where Toc H founder Tubby Clayton was Vicar for 40 years.

Father Bertrand has been Vicar of St. Barnabas Southfields since March 2000, and Area Dean of Wandsworth since 2002.

Before that, he was assistant curate at St John's Walworth, an inner-city Parish.

David Greagsby
Barkingside Branch

James Law
Skelmorlie & Weymess
Scotland

Sandra Murchie
East Region

Ailsa Templeton
Scotland